

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University
Ohio State Engineer

Title: A Message From the President of O. S. U. Association

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Issue Date: May-1921

Publisher: Ohio State University, College of Engineering

Citation: Ohio State Engineer, vol. 4, no. 4 (May, 1921), 7, 9.

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/34128>

Appears in Collections: [Ohio State Engineer: Volume 4, no. 4 \(May, 1921\)](#)

A Message From the President of O. S. U. Association

There are some who maintain that college activities today are becoming too diversified, that there is too much outside the student's daily lessons to distract his attention from those lessons. Personally I can hardly agree with this attitude. Preparation for life is more than simply absorbing so much history or such and such mathematics or a given quota of engineering or chemistry. The conditions that confront the student in college are after all not greatly different from

those that he meets in after life and the man or woman that meets his college conditions successfully in all their complexity is unconsciously preparing himself to meet the conditions of after life.

Ability to express himself cogently, concisely and clearly is one of the things a man cannot begin to learn too early. No matter how important or learned a man's ideas may be they are utterly useless to the world until they pass from

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF O. S. U. ASSOCIATION

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his mind to others. There are only two methods by which ideas may pass from one mind to another; one is to write them and the other to speak them. Each required the use of the English language. The acquirement of clear, cogent English is therefore an essential in any adequate college course. This is a part of college preparation that is too often but little appreciated by the student while in college; the need for it is frequently not seen until he gets into contact with the big world that lies beyond the portals of the college. In my own college days Horton and Alcyone did much to give such a training, but for some reason these two debating societies have jazzed out. Their place has been taken by a multitude of other activities, but whether the change has been for better or worse will require a wiser head than mine to determine. The engineering student is particularly apt to overlook the necessity of being able to express himself and to those I would call attention to the facilities that two of the national engineering societies provide in the student branches which may be organized in such institutions as ours. These student branches give opportunity for the study of engineering subjects, but of more importance is the opportunity they give for the promotion of the ability of expressing one's ideas in language—an ability that is essential to success, whether it be in engineering or any other line.

(Signed) PAUL M. LINCOLN, '92,
President Ohio State University Ass'n.